

of ground transportation in the Bay Area, carrying passengers and commerce between San Francisco and its neighbors to the north.

The Golden Gate Bridge is much more than a transportation corridor or engineering marvel. With its breathtaking setting and dazzling golden-orange color, the Bridge is the iconic symbol of the San Francisco Bay Area, holding a unique place in the hearts and minds of residents and visitors alike. It is the gateway not just to the Bay Area but to the western United States.

During World War II, the Bridge gained fame as the last site our troops saw as they shipped off to fight in the Pacific and the first structure they saw when they arrived back home. In dozens of movies shot in San Francisco, the Bridge appears in the opening scenes to let you know immediately where you are: in one of the most beautiful places on earth.

This year the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy—in cooperation with the National Park Service, the Presidio Trust, and the City and County of San Francisco—have launched a 75th anniversary program, with 75 tributes to celebrate the countless ways in which the Bridge connects people and places.

On May 27th, the anniversary season will culminate in a Golden Gate Festival, with events along the San Francisco waterfront from Fort Point to Pier 39. With the theme of “Bridging Us All,” this community celebration will honor a beloved landmark that represents and reflects the ingenuity, inclusiveness, and creativity of the San Francisco Bay Area.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SISTER JEANNETTE MURRAY

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and legacy of Sister Jeannette Murray, Order of Saint Benedict, who cofounded the Benedictine School in Ridgely, MD. According to Sister Jeannette, it has always been her lifetime dream to provide a complete and total program that will meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. She has more than accomplished that goal. The Sisters of St. Benedict recognized the need for a school that would educate children and young adults with developmental disabilities and established the Benedictine School in 1959 with 19 students. Since that time, the school has provided comprehensive services for more than 1,000 individuals, including those with no meaningful family support. In 2009, the Benedictine School celebrated 50 years as a nationally recognized, accredited, and cost-effective living and learning environment for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Most recently, Sister Jeannette led the charge for the school’s therapeutic aquatic center, spearheaded a \$10 million cam-

paign for capital projects and endowments, and challenged the community to realize her dream of providing 24/7 care for aging loved ones. In April 2012, the Benedictine School broke ground for Senior Homes, “universal design” homes for seniors with disabilities that will offer around-the-clock care.

Earlier this year, Sister Jeannette retired as executive director of Benedictine School, and on June 24 she is being honored by the community—donors, students, residents, civic and community leaders—for her work on behalf of the developmentally disabled. Sister Jeannette has made a tremendous difference in the lives of her students and their families and to all who hear and believe in her work. Her dream has benefitted not only her students and their families but also the larger community.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Sister Jeannette Murray—the “little woman with the huge heart” as the parents of her students call her—for her vision, dedication, and service and in wishing her well in her retirement as she continues to inspire others to share her vision “to see people with developmental disabilities living meaningful, personally satisfying and well supported lives in the community of their choice.”●

#### REMEMBERING GARY LUKASIEWICZ

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Gary Lukasiewicz, an 18 year old senior at Riverside High School in Taylor, PA, who passed away Saturday, May 19, 2012 after a courageous battle against cancer.

Born on November 15, 1993 to Chester and Cheryl Lukasiewicz, Gary excelled in everything he did. He was a varsity athlete in multiple sports, a member of the National Honor Society, and the President of his class. After being diagnosed with cancer, Gary bravely waged a two-year fight against the disease and inspired Northeastern Pennsylvania and the Nation. A Twitter hashtag “Keep Fighting Gary” was spread by tens of thousands of Twitter users and seen by countless more.

The day before Gary passed, he was able to find the strength to attend his senior prom, where he was crowned “Prom King.” As Gary’s family and friends mourn his loss, we offer our condolences and we pray that they find comfort in their love for Gary and memories of him. May we all remember Gary’s grit and determination as we struggle to understand his loss.

May God bless the Lukasiewicz family, Gary’s friends, and the entire Riverside High School community and let them never forget how Gary and his strength affected their lives.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE HARTFORD FOUNDATION

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the Hart-

ford Foundation for Public Giving on having been named the Bronze Award winner for excellence in communications by the 2012 Wilmer Shields Rich Awards Program. This award, which is given out by the National Council on Foundations, recognizes those organizations that develop top-notch communications plans to increase attention and support for nonprofit foundations and corporate giving programs. Increasing public awareness of these organizations helps them to better serve the community.

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving received this honor for its 2010 annual report, “Creating Brighter Futures.” This report focused on the foundation’s 25-year, \$30 million initiative to improve school readiness and success in early grades for Hartford children. The award—one of 12 awarded out of 140 entries in 4 categories—was presented during the Council on Foundations Annual Conference, April 29 to May 1, in Los Angeles.

Of course, this award did not come as a surprise to me, considering all the great work the foundation has done in the Hartford region. Founded in 1925, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for Hartford and 28 other towns in Connecticut’s capital region. Devoted to enhancing the quality of life in the region, the foundation provides grants and other support to a broad range of nonprofit organizations, helps donors make effective charitable giving decisions, and brings people together to discuss important community issues. The foundation has awarded \$532 million since opening its doors in 1925 in grants in the areas of arts and culture, children and youth, education, health, housing and economic development, and family and social services.

I am proud to honor the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving on having been named the Bronze Award winner for excellence in communications by the 2012 Wilmer Shields Rich Awards Program. I thank Linda Kelly, the foundation’s president and CEO, and everyone else involved in the foundation for all they have done for the people of the Hartford region.●

#### RECOGNIZING HAMILTON COLLEGE

● Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, today I wish to honor one of New York’s finer institutions of higher education, Hamilton College in Clinton, NY. On Saturday, May 26, 2012, Hamilton College will celebrate its 200th anniversary as a chartered institution of higher education in the State of New York.

Founded in 1793, by the Reverend Samuel Kirkland, missionary to the Oneida Indians, the college was originally called the Hamilton-Oneida Academy. Samuel Kirkland presented his proposal for the academy to President George Washington who expressed approbation and to Secretary of the